

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ORIG : ()
 UNIT : FE/1
 EXT : 8742
 DATE : 28 JANUARY 1955

SECRET

| ROUTINE | |
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TO : STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, NSA, JCS, SECRET, ONE, OCI, DIA, Japanese-Pol Parties
 FROM : CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY *Abst.*
 CONF : FE 7
 INFO : FI, FI/OPS, FI/PLANS, FI/STD 2, FI/RQM 3, PP 3, PP/OPS, C/CI, CI,
 FI/RT 2, SPECIAL: IID/1, OCD, OCI 13, ONE

CG FD NO. 829 (OUT 58746) 22347 28 JAN 55

ROUTINE
PRIORITY

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

FROM () 26 JANUARY 1955

DATE OF INFO: 26 JANUARY 1955

APPRAISAL

OF CONTENT : 2 (REPORTORIAL ACCURACY)

SOURCE : AMERICAN OBSERVER (B) FROM OGATA TAKETORA.

SUBJECT : VIEWS OF OGATA TAKETORA

1. OGATA TAKETORA, PRESIDENT OF LIBERAL PARTY, BELIEVES LIBERAL PARTY WILL LOSE A MAXIMUM OF TEN SEATS IN 27 FEBRUARY LOWER HOUSEMATE ELECTIONS, AGAINST A MAXIMUM 20 SEAT GAIN FOR THE JAPAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, LEAVING THE LIBERAL PARTY WITH A 30 SEAT PLURALITY.

2. OGATA DESIRES A MERGER WITH THE DEMOCRATS BUT FEELS SPADWORK FOR THIS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST THREE MONTHS. OGATA THINKS LIBERAL MINORITY IN THE GOVERNMENT KURE IS THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY MERGER LATER. OGATA CONSIDERS DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY-GENERAL KISHI NOBUJIKE, FINANCE MINISTER ICHIMADA HISATO, AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADVISOR ASHIDA HITOSHI AS DEMOCRATS MOST STRONGLY FAVORING A CONSERVATIVE MERGER AND BEST DEMOCRATS TO WORK WITH FOR A MERGER. OGATA IS DETERMINED TO REFUSE A COALITION GOVERNMENT

COORDINATING OFFICER

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WITH THE DEMOCRATS.

3. OGATA IS DETERMINED, IF HE BECOMES PREMIER, TO LAY BASIS FOR A CONSERVATIVE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ELEVEN ABOUT ONE YEAR LATER. HE STATED HE WOULD REVIEW ELECTION LAWS IF NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. HIS LONG-RANGE AIM IS A REAL TWO PARTY SYSTEM, AND FEARS EVOLUTION OF DISASTROUS FRENCH-STYLE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM.

4. OGATA STATED THE JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP) DECISION TO USE REGULAR ELECTION METHODS (FIELD COMMENT. EVIDENCED BY RECENT SURFACING OF UNDERGROUND JCP MEMBER TANAKA SHIGA YOSHIO TO RUN FOR DIET) WILL HAVE TWO EFFECTS, ONE GOOD, ONE BAD: (A) JCP CANDIDATES WILL SPLIT LEFTIST VOTE AND MAY COST LEFTIST SOCIALIST PARTY SEATS, THUS HELPING CONSERVATIVES, WHILE JCP WILL PROBABLY NOT GET MORE THAN THREE SEATS; (B) JAPANESE PEOPLE MAY GET ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF JCP AS ORDINARY PARLIAMENTARY PARTY RATHER THAN A TOOL OF THE USSR.

5. OGATA HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT THE SOCIALISTS ARE RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD ON A LARGE SCALE, BUT HAS SEEN NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THIS. (FIELD COMMENT. OGATA EXHIBITED CONFIDENCE AND VITALITY, AND SHAMED TO RELISH COMING FIGHT FOR DIET SEATS.)

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PRECEDENCE

FIELD DISTRIBUTION: STATE

FORMAL DISSEM FOLLOWS

(END OF MESSAGE)

THE ABOVE INFO BASED ON () 1628 (IN 46952)

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